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the University budget. Meanwhile, the University of Nebraska has come back in and they have been granted permission in the budget to start their program. And I think the feeling at Kearney is that in regard to this specific area, this thing has been studied as well as it's going to be studied already. And to delay another year is only delaying something that really needs to be started.

SENATOR DICKINSON: I would like to hear if anyone would like to comment briefly from the Appropriations Committee.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. This was brought, the reason the Appropriations Committee did not include this for Kearney at this time is our concern for the career ladder concept so if someone starts their training as a practical...licensed practical nurse, that first year will count towards their two year degree or their four year degree. And this is not ready to go on the state level. This needs to be...have this year for the drawing together of plans for the State of Nebraska, not just for the benefit of Kearney, for one area of the state. This is why I will not support this amendment on the floor.

PRESIDENT: Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Question of Senator Anderson if he would yield. Senator Anderson, the thing that strikes me on this is the fact that we've already said to the University, to the state colleges and community colleges....get together, formulate a plan for nursing education and bring us back that plan. And then it looks to me like what you're building in is a conclusion of that plan. Would you care to respond to that?

SENATOR ANDERSON: I think...I think the conclusion to the plan in regard to the need for degree nursing program in Nebraska is pretty well made already. The public post-secondary council has developed this conclusion. They were talking about...the language of this particular amendment is drawn so that the development of that program would fit into the program that Senator Marsh is talking about, this career ladder concept. The Budget Committee has already given permission to the University of Nebraska to start a similar program here in Lincoln. So I think what I'm saying is the conclusion, as far as the need for such a program in the Central Nebraska area, is already self-evident.

PRESIDENT: Senator R. Lewis.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Mr. President, I would like to direct a question to Senator Anderson if I might. Senator Anderson, in view of the legislative resolution which came to the floor last week, speaking of a merger with the state college system and the University, don't you feel like that might interfere over total programming for the whole system if this comes to pass? And it does seem to have quite a lot of support.

SENATOR ANDERSON: You're talking about this particular program, Kearney State College being....what, a duplication of what's going on in Lincoln? Or....